



28 April 2017

Planning Ahead

Tuesday, 2 May – **Science Fair**, final projects due, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday, 2-3 May – **Science Fair** judging.

Thursday, 4 May – **Parent-Teacher Fellowship and Science Fair**, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 13 May – **ACSI Track Meet**, Bangor, PA. 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Thursday, 18 May – **FJS Spring Open House**. 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Friday, 26 May – **Track & Field Day**, Highland Park, 10:30 a.m.



Should Our Kids Be Required to Do Chores?

In any group of parents, there are a variety of opinions about kids and chores. Some think kids should do no chores; it's the parents' job. Other believe they should be paid in some way for all the chores they do. Still others tell kids that their chores are simply a way to participate in family life.

Dr. Richard Sagor, in "Motivating Students and Teachers in an Era of Standards," writes, "Of the five basic motivational needs, feeling useful is one of the more crucial. Nothing feels as good as the knowledge that others need us and want our help."¹ When parents and teachers give children little or no responsibility, their sense of self-worth drops dramatically. On the other hand, when they are given age-appropriate manageable tasks, they develop an "I can!" attitude and their self-image increases significantly.

In the online magazine, *Nicole Polizzi*, Kendra Beltran notes, "... kids who are raised with chores actually wind up a lot better than those who have every little thing done for them. ... By making them do chores – taking out the garbage, doing their own laundry – they realize I have to do the work of life in order to be part of life."²

Raising boys in the country, it was a lot easier for us to find things for them to do. Mowing the yard, weeding the garden, and washing the car were all ways to keep them busy. When they turned 14, there were jobs they could do in the neighborhood – McDonalds, washing dishes at a local restaurant, and working at a market stand were starter jobs for our boys.

Living in a city apartment in an area where businesses are reluctant to hire teens poses some problems; however, there are still things kids can do. Even pre-schoolers can learn to pick up their toys and hang up their clothes. Our sons took turns cleaning the bathroom each week. Dinner dishes, vacuuming the apartment, even learning to do the laundry and helping prepare meals provide opportunities for kids to be helpful. We had no girls, so our boys learned to do basic cooking in elementary school.

Further, in addition to developing responsibility and a sense of being needed, these skills will prove valuable when the kids head off to college or move away from home to work.

Summer is coming and in a few short weeks your children will be home looking for ways to occupy their time. Will they be sitting around the house playing video games, watching TV, and browsing the internet? Or will you have meaningful work for them to do? Kids who learn to work at home are much more inclined to work hard at school, but that's probably another topic!

Enjoy a beautiful spring weekend!

James E. Gochnauer, Principal

¹ Sagor, Richard D., Ph.D., "Motivating Students and Teachers in an Era of Standards," *ASCD Express*, <http://www.ascd.org/publications/books/103009/chapters/Identifying-Our-Basic-Psychological-Needs.aspx>, accessed 27 April 2017

² Beltran, Kendra, "Kids Who Do Chores Wind Up Better Off In Life," *Nicole Polizzi webzine*, <http://trending.nicolepolizzi.com/blogs/kids-who-do-chores-wind-up-better-off-in-life>, 10 March 2017, accessed 27 April 2017